

**SECRET**

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ER-7706

WAR DEPARTMENT  
WAR DEPARTMENT GENERAL STAFF  
INTELLIGENCE DIVISION  
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

**\*ARMY/OSD/NSC Declass/Release Instructions On File\***  
**Declassification/Release Instructions on File** January 1948

MEMORANDUM FOR REAR ADMIRAL R. H. HILLENKOTTER (PERSONAL):

SUBJECT: NSC Directive #7 - Domestic Exploitation

1. The reading of this directive is interpreted to mean that the member departments are prohibited from dealing directly in this field except as to present contacts. To shut the door entirely seems to me to be wrong.

2. At the present, the Army has no desire to extend its present activities; in fact it is desirable under existing conditions to draw out to the maximum. Our subagencies are not sufficiently skilled at present to do a good job. In time of war, however, I can visualize that it might be highly desirable and possibly vital to national interest. There should be some easy way, short of going back to the National Security Council, to provide for such a contingency.

3. I sincerely believe that there is a great tendency to draw directives almost so tight, so formal, so legalistically and in so much detail that they are approaching almost a contract and will in fact become obstructive rather than flexible for application to changing conditions. We unnecessarily restrict our liberty of action to play on words rather than stating things generally as to intent.

4. The point raised here is not believed of sufficient importance to insist on a change as a matter of formal nonconcurrence, so if you do not agree with the following suggestion you may have my vote of concurrence with the directive. I do suggest, however, that some saving clause be inserted in order to provide freedom of future action. One that might be included is: after the word "interpreted" in paragraph 5, insert the clause "to prohibit member departments, if later considered in the national interest, to engage directly in this field under the coordinating procedures of the CIA nor".

cc: Director  
ICAPS  
Executive Registry  
Central Records

(Signed)  
S. J. CHAMBERLIN  
Lieutenant General, GSC

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